

TPHA Section Descriptions

Case Management is a new section of TPHA created in 2006 to:

- Emphasize the importance of the role of case managers (social workers, social counselors, case managers, home visitors, etc.) in Public Health.
- Provide information of interest to case managers through educational workshops and section meetings.
- Share information and knowledge with other case managers so they become more effective as frontline workers in the healthcare arena.

Member ship is open to all those who provide case management services in the healthcare setting. Annual dues are \$10.00 per member and are renewable with the annual TPHA dues.

The Communicable Disease Section is a perfect fit for those who are concerned about reducing the spread of disease in our communities. Membership usually includes Disease Intervention Specialists, Public Health Representatives, STD/HIV Program Managers, CDC Program Directors, HIV/AIDS Case Managers, Immunization Program Personnel, Tuberculosis Program Personnel, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Personnel and Arboviral Surveillance Program Personnel. At the annual TPHA meetings the section gives an up-to-date view for each region in the state of concerns with new programs, hot topics, new outreach programs, morbidity and success stories. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other communicable disease professionals, helpful advice for strategies on locating patients and dealing with disease burden and hints and quick tips on utilizing different programs to stop the progression of disease. No annual dues are required to be a member of the section.

The Dental Section focuses on the prevention and control of oral diseases and recommends policy direction for oral health issues to meet the challenge to improve the oral health of all Tennesseans. The Dental Section is committed to promotion of effective efforts in disease prevention, health promotion, and service delivery; education of the public, health professionals, and decision-makers regarding the importance of oral health to total well-being; and expansion of the knowledge base of dental public health and promoting competency in its practice. Although members are primarily dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants, membership is open to all individuals concerned with improving the oral health of the public. Membership provides opportunities for the exchange of ideas and experiences, and continuing education credit is available at the annual meeting. There are no annual section membership dues.

The Emergency Preparedness Section is open to those who are interested in promoting public health emergency planning and response. This includes but is not limited to:

- planning for response to disease outbreaks or acts of bioterrorism
- mass distribution of antibiotics/vaccine
- response to natural disasters, including mass casualty planning
- public education regarding emergency planning
- planning for special needs populations

- continuity of operations in public health regions

As the scope of public health emergency preparedness has grown, so have the facets of planning. The Pandemic and All-Hazards Act, signed into law in December 2006, tasks public health, hospitals, emergency medical systems, and other entities with the improvement of public health security at the state and local level. As Tennessee moves forward with the responsibilities laid out in the act, the Emergency Preparedness Section will strive to have a positive impact on public health systems across the state by encouraging the development of strong all-hazards planning and support at all governmental and agency levels.

The Environmental Section is open to those who are involved or interested in promoting environmental health and safety in the areas of food safety, and other facilities used by the public such as hotels, swimming pools, bed and breakfast establishments, campgrounds, day care centers, and tattoo and body piercing studios. Members include environmental health specialists and other environmental professionals. The section provides speakers at the annual TPHA meetings, gives opportunities for Registered Environmental Health Specialists to earn CEU's, and presents the Lynn B. Heard Award for the "Environmentalist of the Year." The membership benefits include opportunities to network with other environmental health specialists and environmental industry professionals.

The Epidemiology and Biostatistics Section serves as a conduit between the epidemiologic and bio-statistical research communities and those who need scientific information for the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies affecting the public's health in Tennessee. The section strives to promote professional growth and development in the workforce for the State of Tennessee through networking, mentoring, professional development of students, academia and public health professionals and to provide a venue to foster communication and collaboration between members. Any member of TPHA is eligible for membership in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Section. We believe a multidisciplinary membership generates new ideas and creates synergies. There are no annual section membership dues.

Health Administration. Membership in this section of the Tennessee Public Health Association includes those with leadership roles, and those who function in administrative capacities in support of leaders, at the local, regional or state-wide levels whose decision-making directly impacts the public health mission to promote, protect and improve the health of people and their communities. The primary objective is to create opportunities for improved decision-making through the exchange of professional views and experiences. The section is currently involved in long-range planning to create a road map for its future growth and success. Now is an ideal time to join this progressive group.

Health Education/Health Promotion Section is open to those who are engaged or interested in promoting health in their local communities. Membership includes (but is not limited to) health educators, health promotion coordinators, community services directors, health council coordinators, wellness coordinators, social workers, collegiate faculty, and public school teachers. The section hosts speakers at annual TPHA

meetings, and presents a "Public Health Educator of the Year" Award. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other health educators, leadership development opportunities, and a collective voice for legislative action. TPHA provides CEUs and/or Certified Health Education Specialists (CHES) credits for attending this meeting.

The Management Support Section welcomes individuals who work or are interested in the administrative and/or administrative support area of public health. Membership includes administrative personnel, clerical consultants, county directors, office supervisors, office assistants and secretaries. The section conducts an annual business meeting and presents a member with the "Management Support of the Year Award." Annually, the section donates, either money or supplies, to a charitable organization.

Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other administrative professionals, a collective voice for legislative action, and leadership development opportunities as proven in the leadership role. Over the past 42 years, this section has produced 3 presidents; and over the past 25 years has produced 12 vice-presidents and 17 elected board representatives. Annual dues are \$10 and can be included with TPHA annual membership dues.

The Nursing Section is open to nursing personnel who are engaged in public health practice, in teaching and research in the field of health, or other nursing personnel who have demonstrated a genuine interest in the field of Public Health Nursing. Each year the nursing section recognizes outstanding nurses who excel in their work by presenting awards for "Excellence in Public Health Nursing Administration/Supervision/Management", "Excellence in Direct Public Health Nursing Service, and "Nursing Assistant of the Year". The section also awards an annual scholarship to help a nurse further his/her education. Membership in the nursing section is an excellent way to advocate for nursing and for the health of Tennessee's citizens. It is also a great forum to get to know your colleagues from across the great state of Tennessee.

The Nutrition Section is open to those who are engaged or interested in promoting optimal nutrition as an integral part of better health. Membership includes registered dietitians, nutrition educators, breastfeeding counselors and WIC personnel. The section brings in speakers at annual TPHA meetings, provides CEUs for dietitians, and presents a "Public Health Nutritionist of the Year" award. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other nutrition professionals, a collective voice for legislative action, and leadership development opportunities. Annual dues are \$5.

The Physician Section seeks to bring a public health and preventive medicine focus to the practice of medicine. The Section meets at least annually (during the annual TPHA conference), during which CME is provided. The Section invites any physician to participate who is interested in increasing knowledge and performance related to public health and preventive medicine practice. This invitation extends to other doctoral-level providers - such as veterinarians - who may not otherwise have a section home within TPHA.